

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 14327 160601Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 130771

P 150342Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 323

S E C R E T SAIGON 14327

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, EG, VS

SUBJECT: EGYPT AIR OVERFLIGHTS OVER SOUTH VIET-NAM

REF : CAIRO 9180

1. ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS EXERCISE HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN ACHIEVED IN THAT AMBASSADOR EILTS GETS A LITTLE CREDIT IN THE BANK PERSONALLY, AND FOR THE USG, BY PRIOR NOTIFICATION. HOWEVER, OTHER TWO PURPOSES OF THE EXERCISE WOULD BE VITIATED IF WE TRY TO PUT ON TOO MUCH PRESSURE TO SHORT-CIRCUIT AGREED UPON CHANNELS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC IS IN MANILA AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL TUESDAY EVENING. SINCE HE HAS PERSONALLY PUSHED THIS VERY HARD AGAINST THE RELUCTANT GVN BUREAUCRACY, WE WILL ACTUALLY GET SPEEDIER ACTION AWAITING HIS RETURN. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL ENCOURAGE THE VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO INQUIRE FROM HIS MISSION IN JIDDA IF MESSAGE HAS BEEN CONVEYED AND REPLY RECEIVED. IF AMBASSADOR AKINS COULD POUR OIL ON THE CREAKING MACHINERY IN JIDDA AND INQUIRE IF SVN AMBASSADOR HAS CONVEYED APPROVAL TO SAQQAF AND SAQQAF HAS INFORMED THE EGYPTIANS THE PROCESS MAY BE ACCELERATED. IF WE CAN RECEIVE A REPLY BY NEXT WEDNESDAY THAT THE SAUDIES HAVE CONVEYED THE APPROVAL TO THE EGYPTIANS, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO START SOONEST, I WILL THEN SEE BAC AND TRY TO GET AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER

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IMMEDIATELY. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I DO NOT THINK EGYPT

AIR SHOULD USE NOVEMBER 20 STARTING DATE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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